

REMARKS

Claims 2-10 and 12 are pending in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 2, 3, and 9 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 (except for the limitation “adjacent to each other,” as discussed below. Claims 4-6, 10, and 12 are amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 4 is also amended for better consistency with the invention as described in the specification. Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 2, 3, and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3, and 9 have accordingly been rewritten in independent form, and claims 4-6, 10, and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 2. All pending claims therefore are now believed to be allowable.

Objection To The Claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12 were objected to due to language that was considered “misleading.” This objection is believed to be overcome by omission of the limitation “adjacent to each other” in amended claims 2, 3, and 9.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-8, 10, and 12 were rejected under section 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hughes. This rejection is overcome by the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendment of claims 4-6, 10, and 12 to depend from amended claim 2.

Entry of Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116

Entry of this amendment is believed to be proper under 37 CFR § 1.116, in that the amendments to claims 2, 3, and 9 are made to comply with requirements of form expressly set forth in the outstanding Office Action. The amendments to claim 4 are only for the purpose of changing its dependency to depend from allowable claim 2 and to correct an inconsistency with the specification. As claim 4 is a dependent claim, the correction of the inconsistency should not require further search or examination. The remaining amendments to the dependent claims also are only for the purpose of changing their dependency to depend from allowable claim 2; and therefore also do not require further search or examination.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.